

CALIFORNIA CONDOR POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

November 1, 2003

(status through Oct. 31, prepared Nov. 5)

GENERAL SUMMARY

TOTAL POPULATION

219

CAPTIVE POPULATION

135

Los Angeles Zoo	38
San Diego WAP	36
WCBP Boise	50
Mentor birds in field pens	2
Pre-release birds in field pens	9
Southern California	0
Central California	6
Baja California	0
Arizona	3

WILD POPULATION

84

California

41

Southern California-released birds	22
In wild	22
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0
Central California-released birds	19
In wild	19
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0

Baja California

5

In wild	5
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0

Arizona

38

In wild	31 (incl. 1 near-to-fledging wild chick)
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	7

Changes in October:

Central CA – 2½-year-old female missing, presumed dead

Arizona – two birds newly released on Oct. 4, but one of them returned to the pen for behavioral reasons;
re-release of one bird; temporary recapture of 5 birds for lead poison testing and treatment.

Production in 2003:

28 chicks in captivity and 1 chick in the wild were produced from 41 captive-laid and 4 wild-laid eggs

California Department of Fish and Game, Habitat Conservation Planning Branch
http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hcpb/species/t_e_spp/tebird/Condor%20Pop%20Stat.pdf

See below for detailed summary and explanatory notes

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(status through Oct. 31, prepared Nov. 5)

TOTAL POPULATION

219

CAPTIVE POPULATION

135

Los Angeles Zoo	38 (incl. 9 young-of-year)
San Diego WAP	36 (incl. 8 young-of-year)
WCBP Boise	50 (incl. 11 young-of-year)
Oregon Zoo	0
Mentor birds in field pens	2 (SB# 63 in Cent. CA; # 64, Baja CA)
Pre-release birds in field pens	9
Southern California	0
Central California	6 (SB# 265, 266, 270, 278, 286, 287)
Baja California	0
Arizona	3 (SB# 273, 280, 282)

WILD POPULATION

84

California		41
Southern California-released birds	22	
In wild	22	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0	
Central California-released birds	19	
In wild	19	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0	
Baja California		5
In wild	5	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0	
Arizona		38
In wild	31 (incl. 1 near-to-fledging wild chick, SB #305)	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	7 (SB# 250, 276, 126, 133, 134, 187, 203)	

Changes in October:

Central CA – SB# 256 (2½-year-old female) missing since Oct. 19; presumed dead based on mortality-mode signal; unable to locate body.

Arizona – two birds newly released on Oct. 4 (SB# 275 & 276), but #276 was returned to the field pen soon after for behavioral reasons; re-release of SB# 243; temporary recapture of 5 birds (SB# 126, 133, 134, 187, 203) for lead poison testing and for treatment of two of them.

Zoos - plans for transferring birds among zoos were postponed.

Eggs laid in 2003:

Los Angeles Zoo – 7 laid, 7 hatched, 6 chicks surviving

San Diego WAP – 11 laid, 2 infertile, 9 hatched, 9 chicks surviving

WCBP Boise – 23 laid, 5 infertile, 1 unkn, 4 non-viable, 11 hatched at WCBP, 11 surviving; 2 eggs transferred to LAZ also hatched and chicks are surviving.

Wild, California – 1 laid and hatched, but the chick died

Wild, Arizona – 3 laid, 1 broken, 1 failed (cause unknown), 1 hatched and the chick is close to fledging

Production in 2003:

28 chicks in captivity and 1 chick in the wild were produced from 41 captive-laid and 4 wild-laid eggs

Explanatory notes:

SB# - Condor Studbook number

"CAPTIVE POPULATION" includes:

- birds captured from the wild prior to 1988 that are still in a captive facility (e.g., zoo)
- previously released birds returned to captivity permanently or for care and possible re-release
- surviving chicks and juveniles (excludes eggs laid)
- captive-hatched birds retained for captive breeding
- young birds held in breeding facilities in preparation for transfer to a field pen for release
- "mentor birds" from a captive facility transferred temporarily into a field pen to aid socialization of pre-release birds
- birds transferred from a captive facility to a field pen in preparation for initial release or re-release
- WAP is Wild Animal Park (Zoological Society of San Diego); WCBP is World Center for Birds of Prey (The Peregrine Fund)

"WILD POPULATION" includes:

- free-flying birds recently accounted for
- free-flying birds, assumed to be alive, although not recently accounted for
- nestlings in wild nests
- temporarily re-captured wild birds, held in a field pen, that are intended to be re-released soon

"So. Calif." refers to birds originally released at sites from San Luis Obispo County to Ventura County by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Birds released in the two California release areas now freely intermingle.

"Central Calif." refers to birds originally released at sites north of San Luis Obispo County by the Ventana Wilderness Society. Birds released in the two California release areas now freely intermingle.

"Baja Calif." refers to birds originally released in Baja California by the Zoological Society of San Diego, the Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada, and the Instituto Nacional de Ecología.

"Arizona" refers to birds in Arizona and several other states east of California, released by The Peregrine Fund.

Mortalities requiring law enforcement investigation often will not be publicly reported immediately.

Wild Population Statistics, Nov. 1, 2003

1992-95: So. CA - 13 released in 1992-93: 6 died, 7 returned to captivity permanently by 1995

Since 1995:

152 condors released (So. CA – 52; Cent. CA – 32*; Baja CA – 5; AZ – 63) *excl. #134 relocated to AZ
55 released-bird deaths (0 in 1995; 2 in 1996; 6 in 1997; 5 in 1998; 7 in 1999; 16 in 2000; 5 in 2001; 7 in 2002; 7 so far in 2003)

14 returned to captivity permanently, indefinitely, or for extended treatment or rehabilitation

Egg-laying pairs in the wild, California: 2 in 2001; 3 in 2002; 1 in 2003

Egg-laying pairs in the wild, Arizona: 1 in 2001; 2 in 2002; 3 in 2003

5 known nestling deaths in the wild

Jan. 1 totals: 13 in 1996; 25 in 1997, 40 in 1998; 44 in 1999, 52 in 2000, 53 in 2001, 59 in 2002, 80 in 2003

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